

South Bend Tribune Article

October 25, 2005

# Shaking down thunder

## N.D. fans gather under tent for Football Fridays

By **AMY GOVERT-LARSON**  
Tribune Correspondent

SOUTH BEND -- Notre Dame fans looking to fuel their football fever need look no further than downtown South Bend the night before a home game.

That's where you'll find the Football Fridays Tent Party, a lively salute to the Irish.

The new tradition, held Friday evenings outside the College Football Hall of Fame, includes live music, tailgate eats and giveaways that showcase the best of Michiana.

Some 200 guests who gathered beneath the tent last Friday were treated to music from Driftwood and received emerald spirit beads.

"People are just thrilled," said Robin Slutsky, marketing and development coordinator for Downtown South Bend.

Football Fridays Tent Party is sponsored by College Football Hall of Fame, the South Bend/Mishawaka Convention and Visitors Bureau and Downtown South Bend.

The evening festivities offer Irish fans, from far and wide, a unique opportunity to celebrate before packing Notre Dame Stadium the following day.



**Justin O'Gurek and Bill O'Gurek, cousins from Summit Hill, Pa., visit Knute Rockne during their first trip to South Bend.**



**Sydney Livingston, Annie Livingston**

Friday's revelers were so eager to get the party started that organizers began admitting guests an hour before the event's scheduled 7 p.m. opening.

"They heard the band rehearsing and started lining up," said Slutsky.

Football Fridays Tent Party returns to Michigan Street on Nov. 4 from 7 to 10 p.m., before the Tennessee game on Nov. 5.

**and Hali Burns sport spirit beads, the evening's "required" accessory.**



**Jeney Regelean and Patricia Parker, both of South Bend, operates a giveaway wheel while Bill Schlundt of Mishawaka tries his luck.**